

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A recording apparatus comprising:
 - a recording medium fixing member having a plurality of suction ports on a fixed surface to fix a recording medium;
 - an adhering roller which is operable to contact with or operable to separate from the recording medium fixing member and which cleans the fixed surface;
 - a flexible plate which is attached onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member and whose contact surface with the recording medium is cleaned by the adhering roller, the flexible plate comprising a plurality of distributed holes; and
 - a suction apparatus for recording medium fixing which sucks air from the suction ports of the recording medium fixing member and sucks and fixes the flexible plate and the recording medium onto the fixed surface,
 - wherein the plurality of distributed holes in the flexible plate coincide to a degree with the plurality of suction ports on the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member such that suction from the suction apparatus is transmitted through the flexible plate to the recording medium.
2. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the adhesive strength of the adhering roller is 10-65 Hpa.
3. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, the hardness of the adhering roller 10-70°.

4. (original): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least either one of the recording medium fixing member or the adhering roller which are under a contacting condition with each other, is driven, and both of them are synchronously rotated.

5. (previously presented): A foreign material removal method of a recording medium of a recording device comprising a recording medium fixing member having a plurality of suction ports on a fixed surface of the recording medium, an adhering roller which cleans the fixed surface of a recording medium fixing member, a flexible plate which is attached onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member, and a suction apparatus for recording medium fixing which sucks air from the suction port of the recording medium fixing member and sucks and fixes the flexible plate and the recording medium onto the recording medium fixing member, said foreign material removal method comprising:

attaching the flexible plate onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member, the flexible plate comprising a plurality of distributed holes; and

cleaning the flexible plate using the adhering roller,

wherein the plurality of distributed holes in the flexible plate coincide to a degree with the plurality of suction ports on the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member such that suction from the suction apparatus is transmitted through the flexible plate to the recording medium.

6. (previously presented): A foreign material removal method of a recording medium of a recording device comprising a recording medium fixing member having a plurality of suction ports on a fixed surface of the recording medium, an adhering roller which cleans the fixed surface of a recording medium fixing member, a flexible plate which is attached onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member and a suction apparatus for recording medium

fixing which sucks air from the suction port of the recording medium fixing member and fixes by suction the flexible plate and the recording medium onto the recording medium fixing member, said foreign material removal method comprising:

attaching the flexible plate onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member, the flexible plate being sucked and fixed onto the fixed surface by the suction apparatus for recording medium fixing and comprising a plurality of distributed holes, wherein the plurality of distributed holes in the flexible plate coincide to a degree with the plurality of suction ports on the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member such that suction from the suction apparatus is transmitted through the flexible plate to the recording medium, and

cleaning the flexible plate using the adhering roller.

7. (previously presented): A foreign material removal method of a recording medium of a recording device comprising a recording medium fixing member having a plurality of suction ports on a fixed surface of the recording medium, an adhering roller which cleans the fixed surface of a recording medium fixing member, a flexible plate which is attached onto the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member, and a suction apparatus for recording medium fixing which sucks air from the suction port of the recording medium fixing member and sucks and fixes the flexible plate and the recording medium onto the recording medium fixing member, said foreign material removal method comprising:

cleaning the fixed surface using the adhering roller; and

attaching the flexible plate onto the cleaned fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member, the flexible plate comprising a plurality of distributed holes, wherein the plurality of distributed holes in the flexible plate coincide to a degree with the plurality of suction ports on

the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member such that suction from the suction apparatus is transmitted through the flexible plate to the recording medium.

8-42 (canceled).

43. (previously presented): A cleaning method of a recording medium having a length parallel to a main scanning direction, the cleaning method comprising:

first removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the first removing comprising:

bringing a cleaning roller having an adhesion property into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on a surface of a recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about a middle portion of the length of the recording medium, and

relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a first main scanning direction toward an end of the recording medium, and

second removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the second removing comprising:

bringing the cleaning roller into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on the surface of recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium, and

relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a second main scanning direction opposite to the first main scanning direction, toward another end of the recording medium.

44. (previously presented): A cleaning method of a recording medium having a length parallel to a main scanning direction, the cleaning method comprising:

first removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the first removing comprising:

bringing a cleaning roller having an adhesion property into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on a surface of a recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about a middle portion of the length of the recording medium,

relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a first main scanning direction toward an end of the recording medium to remove foreign material on the recording medium surface, and

separating the cleaning roller from the recording medium fixing member surface, and

second removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the second removing comprising:

bringing the cleaning roller into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on the surface of recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium,

relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a second main scanning direction opposite to the first main scanning direction, toward another end of the recording medium, and

separating the cleaning roller from the recording medium fixing member surface.

45. (previously presented): A cleaning method of a recording medium having a length parallel to a main scanning direction, the cleaning method comprising:

first removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the first removing comprising:

bringing a cleaning roller having an adhesion property into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on a surface of a recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about a middle portion of the length of the recording medium, and

first relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a first main scanning direction toward an end of the recording medium, and

separating the cleaning roller from the recording medium fixing member surface, and

second removing foreign material on the recording medium surface, the second removing comprising:

bringing the cleaning roller into contact with the recording medium sucked and fixed on the surface of recording medium fixing member, the cleaning roller being in contact at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium, and

second relatively moving the cleaning roller in contact with the recording medium, in a reverse direction of the first relatively moving, and

separating the cleaning roller from the recording medium fixing member surface.

46. (previously presented): A cleaning method of the recording medium according to Claim 43, wherein the at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium is positioned within a range of 50 % of the length of the recording medium from the middle of the length.

47. (previously presented): A cleaning method of the recording medium according to Claim 43, wherein the at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium is

positioned within a range of $\pm 25\%$ of the length of the recording medium from the middle of the length.

48. (previously presented): A cleaning method of the recording medium according to Claim 43, wherein a first cleaning area from the at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium to the end of the recording medium overlaps with a second cleaning area from the at about the middle portion of the length of the recording medium to the other of the recording medium.

49. (previously presented): A cleaning method of the recording medium according to Claim 48, wherein an overlap amount of the first cleaning area with the second cleaning area is not larger than 45% of the length of the recording medium.

50. (previously presented): A recording method comprising:
conducting a recording corresponding to the character image data on a recording medium sucked and fixed onto a surface of a recording medium fixing member, wherein a cleaning roller having an adhesion property provided oppositely to the recording medium fixing member in such a manner that the cleaning roller is operable to contact or operable to from the fixed recording medium, and a control section which controls a contact motion and a separation motion of the cleaning roller and a relative movement motion of the recording medium fixing member and the cleaning roller according to the cleaning method of the recording medium of Claim 43, are provided.

51. (previously presented): A recording method according to Claim 50, wherein the recording medium fixing member is a rotating drum for the recording which is rotated with the recording medium fixed on a peripheral surface thereof.

52 - 60 (canceled).

61. (new): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the recording medium fixing member is disposed to one side of the flexible plate and the recording medium is disposed on another side of the flexible plate.

62. (new): A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of distributed holes in the flexible plate that coincide to the degree with the plurality of suction ports on the fixed surface of the recording medium fixing member are arranged such that at least one of the plurality of distributed holes is disposed directly over a corresponding at least one of the plurality of suction ports.